(c) For Haj 1994, each pilgrim was charged a sum of Rs. 12000 for air journey to and from Saudi Arabia. Fares charged from the pilgrims travelling by sea were as follows :

— Bunk Class	Rs. 3750
— Cabin Cat. I	Rs. 8750
— Cabin Cat. II	Rs. 8500
— Cabin Cat. III	Rs. 8250.

(d) The decision on the amount of the Haj fare to be charged from pilgrims and the expenditure to be borne by Government thereon will be decided nearer the time of the Haj.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Delay in Payment of Compensation to Sufferers of Gulf War

2211. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several Indians who suffered losses during Gulf War have yet to receive compensation as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 5th November, 1994 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to expedite such cases lying pending ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Indian claim has been paid out so far.

(c) Nothing is pending with GOI. All claims have been sent to the United Nations Compensation Commission, Geneva, after processing.

(d) It is the exclusive responsibility of the United Nations Compensation Commission to scrutinise and evaluate the claims, evolve the payment procedures and deliver the awarded compensation to eligible claimants for payment through national Governments. It is not possible to estimate the timing or the value of payment which may eventually be made by the United Nations Compensation Commission.

Rupee-Rouble Exchange between India and Russia

2212. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the fate of rupee-rouble exchange ;

(b) whether Russian Government has decided to auction rupee in open market ;

(c) what is the fate of Indian business in Russia after open market system adopted by Russian Government ;

(d) whether Russian policy has been changed regarding Kashmir ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Trade with Russsia is being conducted in freely convertible currency in accordance with an Inter-governmental Agreement signed in May, 1992, with the effective rate of exchange between the Indian rupee and the Russian rouble within Russia being determined through market forces. In respect of repayment of past credits owed to the former Soviet Union, the Agreement signed during President Yeltsin's visit to India in January, 1993, provides for a negotiated rupee-rouble rate of exchange in accordance with which repayments are being made in Indian rupees, to be liquidated through import of goods and trade related services from India to the Russian Federation.

(b) No, Sir. Debt repayment rupees have so far not been auctioned by the Russian Government though special allocations have been made through tender.

(c) According to available figures, Indian exports to Russia were Rs. 2004 crores during 1993-94, while our imports from Russia were Rs. 810 crores. While no separate figures for Russia were compiled by DGCIS prior to this, India's exports to the former USSR were Rs. 1693 crores, and imports were Rs. 745 crores during 1992-93. During April-August 1994, India's exports were Rs. 910 crores and imports Rs. 418 crores with respect to Russia.

(d) No, Sir. The Russian Government continues to take the position that the Kashmir issue should be resolved between India and Pakistan on a bilateral basis in accordance with the Simla Agreement of 1972. It is against the internationalisation of the issue.

(e) Does not arise.

Secret Arms deal between France and Pakistan

2213. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of a recent arms deal under which France has decided to sell three Agosta-90B class submarines to Pakistan ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the proposed sale of these submarines in the much

advanced technology will disturb the equilibrium in the region ; and

(c) if so, what steps are being contemplated to meet the situation arising due to these submarines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have conveyed to the Government of France their serious concerns over the negative impact of the transfer of this sophisticated weapons system on the security environment in the region.

Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on national security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

Diplomatic Defeat of Pakistan at the UN

2214. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY :
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is being done to follow up and reinforce the diplomatic defeat of Pakistan in bringing a resolution on Kashmir in the UN ;

(b) what diplomatic action Government anticipate from Pakistan as a fallout of this defeat ; and

(c) whether Government would supply briefs on this issue to the Members of Parliament ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Although Pakistan continues to try to internationalize the Kashmir issue, Government have repeatedly urged Government of Pakistan to resolve all outstanding issues between the two countries, including differences related to J&K, peacefully and through bilateral negotiations within the framework of the Simla Agreeement.

(c) The Standing Committee of the Ministry has been briefed in detail on these developments.

Expansion of Security Council

2215. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the latest position in regard to the expansion of the Security Council :

(b) whether the group set up to outline the criteria has submitted its report ; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government for the inclusion of India as a member of the Council ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) The Working Group has been unable to complete its work and has asked that its mandate be renewed ; the 49th General Assembly has authorised it to continue its work and to submit a report at the 50th session of the Assembly.

(c) At the 49th General Assembly, India has announced that, under any objective criteria, it qualifies to be a permanent member. In the Working Group, India, with other developing countries, is helping to develop criteria for the expansion of the permanent membership of the Security Council.

Sri Lankan Navy's attack on Indian Fishermen

2216. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Sri Lankan Navy has attacked the Indian fishermen in the month of October and November, 1994 ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what are the steps taken to protect our fishermen ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) The Government of India have received reports stating that the Sri Lankan Navy attacked Indian fishermen in the month of October and November, 1994.

(b) On October 24, 1994, two Indian fishing boats with four crew members in each were said to have been attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy who assaulted the fishermen causing stab injuries to two fishermen and damage to their fishing nets etc. On November 3, 1994, an Indian fishing boat with five fishermen on board was said to have been fired upon by the Sri Lankan Navy resulting in the death of one fisherman.

These incidents have been taken up strongly by the Government of India with the Sri Lankan Government expressing our concern. A response is awaited regarding the October incident. The Sri Lanka Government has replied that their authorities concerned have, after investigation, stated that they are not aware of the November 3 incident.

(c) At official discussions held in March 1994, both sides agreed to implement effectively measures to prevent incidents affecting Indian fishermen. These measures relate to (i) precautions to be observed by fishermen ; and (ii) steps to be taken by